

Message Text

SECRET

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20

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 CAB-09 COME-00

DOT-00 EB-11 FAA-00 OMB-01 SAM-01 DRC-01 /111 W

----- 079030

O R 160834Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1543

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

COMUSTDC

S E C R E T TAIPEI 2359

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

TDC FOR J-22

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS PFOR ETRN TW CH JA

SUBJ/ROC-JAPAN CIVAIR CONTROVERSY

REF TAIPEI 2338

1. SUMMARY: IMPELLED BY THE URGING OF SEIRANKAI AND AN ARTIFICIALLY HEIGHTENED SENSE OF WOUNDED DIGNITY, THE GROG (DESPITE THE MISGIVINGS OF MANY IN AND OUT OF GOVERNMENT) IS SLIDING RAPIDLY TOWARD A BREAK IN CIVIL AIR RELATIONS WITH JAPAN. IN THE HIGHLY EMOTIONAL CLIMATE LIKELY TO FOLLOW, THERE IS POSSIBILITY THE GROG WILL TAKE INTEMPERATE ACTION AGAINST INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAFFIC. WE ARE RECOMMENDING SEPTTEL THAT CHARGE BE INSTRUCTED TO CAUTION IN STRONG TERMS AGAINST SUCH INTERFERENCE. END SUMMARY.

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2. IN APPARENT RESPONSE TO SEIRANKAI'S URGING THAT IT TAKE THE STIFFEST POSSIBLE POSITION, AND IMPELLED BY A SELF-MANIPULATED SENSE OF WOUNDED DIGNITY, THE GROC IS LOCKING ITSELF INTO A POSITION IN WHICH IT WILL BREAK CIVIL AIR TIES WITH JAPAN IF THE CIVAIR AGREEMENT WITH PEKING IS SIGNED AND IF OHIRA MAKES THE STATEMENTS LEAKED BY FUJIO LAST WEEK. THE DECISION TO COMMIT THE GRCO TO THIS COURSE WAS MADE BY THE PERMIER WHO, IN HENRY KAO'S WORDS TO CHARGE, HAS "INTIMIDATED" THE REST OF THE CABINET AND GOVERNMENT ON THIS ISSUE.

3. FOR THE GROC, THE STAKES ARE HIGH. AS WE BELIEVE THE PREMIER SEES IT, EITHER THE TANAKA GOVERNMENT WILL BE FORCED AT THE LAST MINUTE TO TURN ASIDE FROM CONCLUDING THIS PARTICULAR AGREEMENT IN PEKING OR, HAVING CONCLUDED IT

WITHOUT ANY FURTHER MODIFICATION, RIGHT WING PRESSURE FROM WITHIN THE LDP FOLLOWING THE CIVAIR RUPTURE HERE WILL FORCE OHIRA AND POSSIBLY TANAKA FROM OFFICE. ENTIRELY ASIDE FROM WHETHER THIS IS A REALISTIC ASSESSMENT, THE CALCULATED NATURE OF THE POSITION IS BY NOW COMPLETELY OBSCURED BY THE ANTI-JAPANESE FEELING AND SENSE OF GRIEVOUSLY INJURED DIGNITY HAMMERED HOME OVER THE PAST TEN DAYS BY GOVERNMENT STATEMENTS AND THE PRESS. ALTHOUGH MANY HAVE DEEP MISGIVINGS, THERE IS NO ONE(EXCEPT THE PREMIER) ABLE TO CALL A HALT.

4. IF THE BREAK COMES, IT ALMOST SURELY WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY A GREAT DISPLAY OF ANTI-JAPANESE POSTURING AND SOME REAL ANTI-JAPANESE SENTIMENT. IN THIS EMOTIONAL CLIMATE, THERE IS THE DISTINCT DANGER OF ACTION TO MAKE GOOD THE SEVERAL TIMES REPEATED THREAT THAT THE ROC AIR FORCE WILL TAKE ACTION AGAINST JAPANESE AIRCRAFT ENTERING THE TAIPEI FIR AND ADIZ.

ACCORDINGLY, WE ARE RECOMMENDING BY SEPTTEL THAT THE CHARGE BE INSTRUCTED TO CALL ON FONMIN WHEN TO REEMPHASIZE THE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES IF THE GROC

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WERE TO PREVENT
INNOCENT AIR TRAFFIC OVER INTERNATIONAL WATERS.
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Message Attributes

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